

**IN THE CLAIMS**

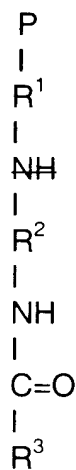
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) A method of imparting a bio-active coating to a surface of an article which comprises:

a) plasma treating said surface ~~and~~ with a gaseous material in an ionization chamber whereby hydrophilic groups generated from said gaseous material are introduced onto said surface to provide a hydrophilic environment thereon, and

b) contacting said surface with a polymer bound bio-active composition represented by the structure:



wherein P is a bio-compatible polymer, ~~R<sup>1</sup>~~ R<sup>1</sup> is ~~O=C-NH-~~ -NH-; R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrophilic amine-terminated spacer and R<sup>3</sup> is a bio-active agent.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the bio-compatible polymer is selected from the group consisting of bio-compatible polymers having carboxyl functionality, unsaturated functionality, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the ~~bio-active agent~~ spacer is selected from the group consisting of oxygenated polyolefins, aliphatic polyesters, polyamino acids, polyamines, hydrophilic polysiloxanes, hydrophilic polysilazanes, hydrophilic acrylates, hydrophilic methacrylates, linear and lightly branched polysaccharides.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the bio-active agent is selected from the group consisting of anti-thrombogenic agents, antibiotic agents, antibacterial agents, their pharmaceutical salts, and mixtures thereof.